

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6821

BILL NUMBER: SB 299

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 30, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Trafficking with an Inmate.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Long

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill makes delivering contraband directly or indirectly to an inmate who has been or is being transported from a penal facility to attend judicial proceedings a Class A misdemeanor. It makes the offense a Class D felony if the contraband is a controlled substance and a Class C felony if the contraband is an item that may be used as a weapon.

Effective Date: July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures: There are no data available to indicate how many offenders may be convicted of trafficking with an inmate outside a facility, a Class A misdemeanor. The offense is punishable as a Class D felony or a Class C felony depending on the type of item provided the inmate.

Depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances, a Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 6 months to 3 years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor and a Class C felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from 2 to 8 years. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$20,977 in FY 2005. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the average cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$62,292. The average length of stay in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately 10 months and for all C felony offenders is approximately 2 years.

Explanation of State Revenues: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class D or Class

C felony is \$10,000, and the maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings for the Class D or Class C felony, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. Also, a Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Department of Correction.

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